

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 9

1100 Hours May 6, 2008

The next Situation Report will be May 7, 2008 at 1100 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. **The National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 10: 2 EF0 (James City and Gloucester/Mathews counties), 7 EF1 (City of Colonial Heights and counties of Isle of Wight, Brunswick, Surry, Mathews, Greenville and Halifax) and 1 EF3 (City of Suffolk).** Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#); [NWS 28 April Tornado Event](#)

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The VEOC has transitioned to Recovery Operations with normal staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations is being coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.

State of Emergency: At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April. [Executive Order #65 \(2008\)](#)

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time. The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.

Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk closed at 2000 hours, 5 May.

WEATHER

Forecast: Tuesday, 6 May: Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in South Central and Southeast VA; high temps mid to upper 70's; winds 5-10 MPH. Tuesday night: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in South Central and Southeast VA; low temps upper 40's to low 50's; light and variable winds. Wednesday, 7 May: Mostly sunny; high temps mid 70's to low 80's; winds 5-15 MPH with gusts up to 25 MPH in Southwest VA.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator

Twigg on 29 April. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg demobilized on 2 May and is available to assist City of Suffolk if needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC demobilized on 5 May at 2000 hrs. Portsmouth Medical Reserve Corp activated and providing one Registered Nurse to each of three locations to assist Health Department nurses with Tetanus boosters/vaccinations. Virginia Beach Medical Reserve Corp has one Licensed Practical Nurse assisting American Red Cross with community outreach/case working. Currently planning for “Community Clean Up” scheduled for 10 May.

Health Department has added fliers on “Safety Tips for Working Outdoors” to materials available at the Disaster Assistance Center. Flyer includes topics such as how to avoid sunburn, prevent dehydration and heat/sun related fatigue. It also details the difference between heat stroke, heat exhaustion and heat cramps as well as instructions to seek medical attention if symptoms are noticed.

Tetanus vaccinations and boosters are being provided to all residents and first responders at Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Disaster Response Center.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Virginia Department of Mental Health (DMHMRSAS)

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (CSB) has over 70 staff deployed to support the City of Suffolk, Suffolk Schools, Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and local churches. CSB staff has been deployed since 30 April to Hill Point, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddler Heights and the Suffolk Disaster Assistance Center in support of mental health issues. CSB staff has provided crisis counseling and has arranged groups for families and children to assist with normalization efforts and residual emotional concerns. Those undergoing crisis support are also eligible for pre-paid phones and Wal-Mart cards. CSB has made their fleet of vehicles and staff available to transport individuals and goods. CSB staff deployment rotations will continue throughout the weeks ahead and begin to become more targeted to individuals and families expressing trauma symptoms.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)

VSP currently has 12 troopers on special assignment in Suffolk supporting impacted jurisdictions. 27 troopers demobilized over the weekend.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery

Initial Damage Assessment Reports:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$ 60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919

Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0
Surry County	\$ 74,000	\$0
 Total	 \$32,040,508	 \$2,740,919

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. The Disaster Assistance Center continues to experience brisk attendance and the city will evaluate and determine hours of operation for the remainder of the week. Representatives from Virginia Employment Commission and Social Security were integrated into the Center that includes representatives from city departments, state agencies, private insurance companies, and voluntary organizations. ***Requested guidance from Department of Accounts in regard to Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia (Powers and duties of the Governor), item 10, which states that the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, up to three calendar months, to an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a disaster that has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area. Coordinating with Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters to assist Brunswick County in assessing needs and identifying resources from volunteer organizations to assist uninsured families impacted in the disaster. Currently surveying state and federal housing agencies about assistance programs for impacted citizens; Inventory of rental housing is limited in impacted areas and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) recommended that families impacted get in touch with a Housing Counselor or a Housing Counselor agency, which have a good understanding of the housing resources in an area. HUD provided a list of agencies nearest to Brunswick County and the city of Suffolk. These lists were forwarded to those communities. HUD surveyed their properties in regard to vacancies in the Suffolk area and shared this information with the Redevelopment and Housing Authority. US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development is also surveying their properties in these areas in regard to vacancies. The Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation has field teams in Suffolk assisting the Building Inspector's Office in regard to contractor issues. Received Small Business Administration recap of assessments conducted May 1-2, 2008 in the cities of Suffolk and Colonial Heights and Brunswick County.***

The City of Suffolk submitted their Notice of Interest to seek assistance under the state Public Assistance program for eligible costs. The city also submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with their response and recovery operations to VDEM.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

All food operations are being coordinated through Operation Blessing and distributed through Salvation Army and American Red Cross. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope deployed teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

The American Red Cross reports that approximately 5,021 meals have been prepared and distributed throughout the event. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. Red Cross is providing

housing on a one-to-one basis. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. The Red Cross Service Center is located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support *VDEM coordinated 12 resource requests. Nine requests were completed and 3 requests were cancelled. All resource requests are closed at this time.* All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

Mapping/GIS Unit Providing support to localities and state agencies

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk: *EOC operations closed at 2000 hours, 5 May. The Tidewater Incident Management Team demobilized at 2000 hours, 5 May. A daily staff meeting will occur at 1600 hours at the City Manager's Office to review operations and the need to continue recovery operations and return to normal operations.* A curfew for impacted areas remains in effect from 2300-0700 hrs. A contractor re-entry program has been established and contractors and residents must register at the Disaster Assistance Center. *Debris removal operations in Driver and Saddler Heights are completed and debris removal operations in Burnett's Mill and Hill Point are at 60% with all storm debris expected to be removed by mid-week. An estimated 10,700 cubic yards of debris has been removed to date. Waterways impacted by the event have been surveyed and evaluated. A work group consisting of Public Works, Police and the Incident Management Team is addressing this issue. Fire and EMS units are posted at Burnett's Mill, Driver and Hill Point assisting with recovery efforts and sweeping the area every hour to 1 ½ hour. The Saddler Heights recovery efforts are continuing well and fire/EMS sweep the area every three hours. Fire/EMS personnel are distributing supplies, assisting with debris removal (cutting trees, etc) and providing fire/EMS coverage. Fire/EMS operations are returning to normal and operations in Driver are being scaled back. The Disaster Assistance Center located at Suffolk Recreation Center at Kings Fork Middle School will remain operational through this week with reduced staffing and hours of operation. A follow up Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8 May 1900 hrs, at Kings Fork Middle School, and will discuss transitioning services back to individual departments, provide an update on funds received and distributed, status report of promises made at first Town Hall meeting, stress management, Community Cleanup Day and a question and answer period.*

Approximately 633 volunteers have participated in the response and recovery efforts, donating 3,671 hours. 78 work orders have been accepted and completed by volunteers in the disaster area. Suffolk Police Department has established a Valuables Recovery Center for personal belongings to be dropped off and residents can reclaim them. A Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, 10 May. Individual projects will be matched with United Way volunteers. The City Attorney's Office is drafting a letter with assistance from VDEM reference mortgage payments that will be presented to City Council on Wednesday, 7 May, for approval.

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-409-7729). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be "microchip" scanned.

York County:	The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.
City of Chesapeake:	Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.
City of Colonial Heights:	Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area.
Isle of Wight County:	Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.
Halifax County:	Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.
Brunswick County:	Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed on 29 April and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with winds between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. 14 homes were damaged and the estimated damage is \$650,000.
City of Portsmouth:	Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk City.
City of Newport News:	Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.
James City County:	10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable. Estimated damage totals \$217,000.
Surry County:	1 mobile home destroyed in Claremont area with estimated total damage \$74,000.

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